

ASSOCIATED PRESS
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STENNIS
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FIRST LEAD CUBA-CONGRESS (220)

WASHINGTON, FEB. 7 (AP)—SEN. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., SAID TODAY THAT SECRET TESTIMONY ABOUT THE SOVIET FORCE IN CUBA HAS CONVINCED HIM THERE HAS BEEN NO LESSENING OF THE MILITARY THREAT SINCE OFFENSIVE MISSILES AND BOMBERS WERE REMOVED.

STENNIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE PREPAREDNESS SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH IS MAKING A STUDY OF THE WHOLE SITUATION CENTERING ON THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ISLAND, SPOKE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF YESTERDAY'S TELEVISED REPORT ON CUBA BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA AND INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS.

BUT HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO WATCH ALL OF THAT UNUSUAL SHOWING, AND TIED HIS REMARKS MORE TO HIS OWN INQUIRY. HE SAID THAT STUDY WILL GO RIGHT AHEAD, UNAFFECTED BY THE PENTAGON ACCOUNTING.

THE SENATE GROUP HAD JUST FINISHED A SECOND CLOSED SESSION WITH JOHN A. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, AND STENNIS SAID THE NEXT WITNESSES PROBABLY WILL BE MILITARY LEADERS.

SINCE THE REPORTED REMOVAL OF THE LONG-RANGE MISSILES AND BOMBERS FROM CUBA, STENNIS SAID, "I DON'T SEE ANY LESSENING OF THE MILITARY THREAT."

HE SAID THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED WITHDRAWAL SINCE ABOUT 5,000 TECHNICIANS WENT HOME WITH THE MISSILES AND BOMBERS AND HIS GROUP WANTS TO KNOW "JUST WHY THEY (THE SOVIETS) ARE CONTINUING THIS UNUSUAL MILITARY THREAT."

MORE OR LESS IN LINE WITH STENNIS' VIEW, SEN. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER, SAID THE ONE IMPRESSION HE GOT FROM THE PENTAGON SHOWING WAS "THAT CUBA IS A SOVIET BASE FROM WHICH THEY WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE" FOR PENETRATION OF LATIN AMERICA.

AT THE OTHER ETC., 3RD GRAF A127WX

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